TERRE HAUTE - MAYORS

Elijah Tilloteon,	May 5, 1838-Aug. 10, 1838
Dr. Marcus Hitchcock	Aug. 10, 1838-June 1839
Britain M. Harrison	June 4, 1839-Feb. 9, 1843

February 9, 1843, the office of Mayor was abolished by a special act of the Legislature, the ordinances were to be enforced by magistrates and all the other duties of that office were transferred to the President of the Common Council.

Under the new constitution of the state of Indiana, a general law was enacted by the Legislature, providing for the incorporation of cities. Approved June 18, 1852.

William K. Edwards,	May 30, 1853-55
James Hook,	1855-1856
Chambers Y. Patterson,	1856-60
William H. Stewart,	1860-63
Albert Lange,	1863-1867
Grafton F. Cookerly,	1867-71
Alexander Thomas,	1871-75
James B. Edmunds,	1875-77
Henry Fairbanks,	1877-78
Joseph M. Wildy,	1878-79
Benjamin F. Haven,	1879-81
James B. Lyne,	1881-83
William H. Armstrong,	1883-85
Jacob Kolsem,	1885-89
Frank C. Danaldson, (R)	1889-91
James M. Allen,	1891-92
Henry Griswold,	1892
Frederick A. Ross, (R)	1892-98
Henry C. Steeg,	1898-1904
Edwin H. Bidaman, (R)	1904-06
Frank M. Buckingham, (Finished Bidamans term.)	1906
James Lyons, (D)	1906-10
Louis A. Gerhardt, (D)	1910-14
Donn M. Roberts, (D)	1914 to 2-23-15
James Murrell Gossom, (D) (youngest)	2-23-15 to 1918
Charles R. Hunter, (R)	1918-22
Ora D. Davis, (R)	1922-30
Wood J. Posey, (D) 5 yr. term by Gov. McNutt	1930-35
Samuel Beecher, (R)	1935-39
Joseph P. Duffy, (D)	1939-43
Vernon Ream McMillan, (R) (ext to 5 years by State Legislature)	1943-48
Ralph Tucker, (D)	1948-68
Leland Larrison, (R)	1968-72
William Brighton, (D)	1972-80
Pete Chalos, (D)	1980-

Special Collections

*Earlier Information from Bradsby, H.C. History of Vigo County Indiana with Biographical sketches. and Jerse, Terre Haute, A Pictorial History.

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TERRE HAUTE - MAYORS

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Special Collections

Typed from fading, brittle typed and hand-written copy. Feb. 7, 1984

Community Affairs File

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MAYORS OF TERRE HAUTE

May, 1838 - Elijah Tillotson - resigned Aug. 10, 1838
Sept. 9, 1838 - Dr. Marcus Hitchcock, elected - resigned June, 1839
June 4, 1839 - Brittain M. Harrison
Jan., 1840,1841,1842 - and 1843 re-elected
Feb. 9, 1843 - office of mayor abolished by spec act of st. leg
May 30, 1852 - (1st city election) (Wm. H. Edwards (Legal Adviser to C. Rose.)
City Rec . Bk. 1 P. 1 Total votes 752 Edwards 573 vs. B. M. Harrison 179)

1853 Wm. H. Edwards
1854 Wm. H. Edwards
1855 May 7 - James Hook
1856 Chambers Y. Patterson
1857 "
1858 "
1859 "
1860 " Special Election Nov. 19, 1860- Wm. H. Stewart elected to fill unexpired term CVP who resigned to become Circuit Court Judge
1861 - MAY - Wm. H. Stewart reelected.
1862 Wm. H. Stewart
1863 Wm. H. Stewart served till May 9,1863
1864 Albert Lange
1865 Albert Lange elected - Repub (Union)
1866 Albert Lange
1867 Col. Grafton F. Cookerly elected. Demo.
1868 G. F. Cookerly ---Ch. of Police Allen Alloway the patrolman
1869 G. F. Cookerly
1870 ?
1871 G. F. Cookerly --Ch. of Police Dan'l Cfowe
1872 Alexander Thomas - R.
1873 Alexander Thomas
1874 Alexander Thomas -- Ch. of Police G. W. Shewmaker
1875 " " " " " " "
1876 James B. Edmunds - D - Ch. of Police Geo. W. Shewmaker
1877 Hon. Henry Fairbanks
(1877 - Edmunds d. 2 mos. after re-el.
Henry Fairbanks (R) el. to fill vacancy.
Six ex-mayors acted as pallbearers at E. funeral.
After serving 9 mos. of his term, Mayor F. d. Apr. 8, 1878)

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

1878 - May - 7 - Wm. K. Edwards (elected to fill vacancy of above who died)
Joseph M. Wilby (N)
1879 Benjamin F. Havens (D) M.W. Stack
1880 " " " " " "
1881 James B. Lyne (R) Russell
1882 James B. Lyne Ch. of Police - Harry Russell
1883 W. H. Armstrong (R) " - C. E. Vandever
1884 W. H. Armstrong - Danl. Fasig
1885 Jacob C. Kolsem (D) - Ch. of P. -- Michael Lawlor
1886 "
1887 "
1888 "
1889 "
Frank C. Danaldson
1890 " " "
1891 " " "
1892 Fred A. Ross - Cornelius Meagher
1893
1894 Ross "
1895
1896 " "
1897 Ross "
1898 Steeg - Chas. E. Hylbrd
1899
1900 Henry C. Steeg

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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1901 Henry C. Steeg
1902 "
1903 " - James Lyons
1904 " "
Edwin J. Bidaman
1905
1906 Bidaman R - George M. Lints (?)
1907
1908 James Lyons - Harvey V. Jones
1909
1910 Louis A. Gerhardt D - John Kotsch
1911
1912 " - Danl. Fasig
1913 " - Danl. Fasig
1914 DONN M. ROBERTS
1915 James M. Gossom R - Sylvester J. Doyle
1916 " " "
1917
1918 Chas. R. Hunter -- John Beattie
1919
1920 " "
1921
1922 Ora D. Davis R - John B. Smock
1923
1924 " "
1925 " "
1926
1927 " "
1928
1929 " "
1930
1931 Wood Posey D
1932 "
1933 "
1934 "
1935 5yrs. odd yr. legislature
1936 Saml. Beecher R
1937 " "
1938 " "
1939 " "
1940 Jos. P. Duffy
1941
1942 "
1943
1944 Vernon R. McMillan R
1945 "
1946 "
1947 Ralph Tucker D
1948
1949
1950
1951

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

STUDENT GUIDE SHEET

Mayors: Terre Haute

The folder contains a section of **General Information** and several separate files on specific mayors. Chronological lists of the mayors are available, but they do not always agree on early facts. Below, the student will find a suitable list, with a * marking mayors who are featured in tabbed files.

The folder also has an article about Terre Haute mayors by Dorothy Clark and photocopies of portraits of several mayors. "Bi-Partisan Machine" is the text of a speech by Will Ball about the 1909-10 election. Ball supported the independent candidate, Whitney.

1838	Elijah Tillotson
1838-39	Marcus Hitchcock
1839-43	Brittain M. Harrison
1843-53	no mayors: city governed by magistrates & council
1853-55	William K. Edwards
1855-56	James Hook
1856-61	Chambers Y. Patterson
1861-63	William H. Stewart
1863-67	Albert Lang
1867-71	Grafton T. Cookerly
1871-75	Alexander Thomas
1875-77	James B. Edmunds
1877-78	Henry Fairbanks
1878-79	Joseph Wildy
1879-81	Benjamin F. Havens
1881-83	James B. Lyne
1883-85	William H. Armstrong
1885-89	Jacob C. Kolsem
1889	Henry M. Griswold
1889	James M. Allan
1889-91	Frank C. Danaldson
1892-98	Fred A. Ross
1898-1904	Henry C. Steeg
1904-06	Edwin H. Bidaman *(impeached)
1906	Frank M. Buckingham
1906-10	James Lyons
1910-14	Louis Gerhardt
1914-15	Donn M. Roberts *(convicted of fraud, imprisoned)
1915-18	James Gossom
1918-22	Charles R. Hunter
1922-30	Ora Davis
1930-35	Wood Posey
1935-39	Samuel E. Beecher *
1939-44	Joseph D. Duffy (obituary in file)
1944-48	Vernon R. McMillan *
1948-68	Ralph Tucker *
1968-72	Leland Larrison *
1972-80	William Brighton *
1980-88 -95	Pete Chalos *
1996-	James Jenkins

PROJECT QUESTIONS AND IDEAS

Write a paper about the election of 1913 and the "purge" of 1915.

MAYORS

Post Oct. 4-1918

Mayor's Proclamation For 'Victory' Prayer

As Mayor of the city of Terre Haute, and in keeping with a resolution of the United States Senate, I do hereby proclaim:

That on Monday, October 7th and daily thereafter until victorious peace has come, for one minute beginning at 11 a. m., all activities of all persons in the city of Terre Haute, cease; and that said minute be given to meditation and prayer for the victory and success of our nation and its allies.

In order to make the Victory Prayer effective it is requested that all fire bells, church bells and school bells be tolled for the period of sixty seconds, one minute, beginning promptly at 11 a. m. and that all factories indicate the beginning of the time so designated by two short blasts of the whistle and announce the close of the interval by one short blast; that all street cars stop and remain standing for the full minute; that all traffic shall be held stationary; and that pedestrians pause and remain with uncovered head until the minute has passed; that in stores, offices and schools, factories and homes all work cease for the moment and that all persons wheresoever they may be or whatsoever they may be doing observe the moment of Victory Prayer; that each and every person conform to his or her own method of prayer and meditation, and that the burden of all prayer and meditation be for the success and strengthening of the nation and its allies in the war for freedom.

(Signed) CHAS. R. HUNTER, Mayor.
October third, Nineteen Eighteen. The City of Terre Haute, Indiana.

Community Affairs File

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Mayors (TH)

TERRE HAUTE - MAYORS

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(ext to 5 years by State Legislature)	
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William Brighton, (D)	1972-80
Pete Chalos, (D)	1980- 1995
Jenkins, James (D)	1996-

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Mayors (TH)

See: Archives for this collection

INVENTORY

Mayor Charles R. Hunter
Dates: 1917-1921
Accession Number: 831130A-
Donor: Unknown
Description: Six file folders in a document case

Content and Scope of Collection

A small collection of letters of congratulations and other correspondence; campaign materials; clippings; and a list of 1917 election expenses documents the one-term tenure of this Republican mayor of Terre Haute.

Mayors (TH)

Community Affairs File

Terre Haute Has Had 35 Mayors Since It was Chartered in 1832

(TH)

By PAT BARNES

Tribune Staff Writer

Pictures of several former Mayors of Terre Haute are now hanging on the walls in the office of Mayor Leland Larrison.

Mayor Larrison said he found the old pictures in a box located inside a closet at City Hall and decided to clean them up. The old pictures were placed in new frames and placed on the west and south walls of the mayor's office.

Terre Haute, since being incorporated as a town by the Indiana General Assembly in January of 1832, to the present has had 35 mayors.

The 1832 act of the Indiana General Assembly set up a "president and trustees" for the town of Terre Haute. The town was divided into five wards and one trustee was elected by the people from each.

This system of government continued until 1838 when another act by the Indiana General Assembly granted a new charter to Terre Haute which provided for the election of a mayor and 10 councilmen. This vote was accepted by local citizens in March of that year.

Special Election

A special election in Terre Haute was conducted and in May of 1838 Elijah Tillotson was elected the first town mayor.

Tillotson resigned the post of mayor on Aug. 10, 1838.

Another special election was held and Dr. Marcus Hitchcock was elected town's mayor in September of 1838, only to resign the post in June of the following year.

FORMER TERRE HAUTE MAYORS—Mayor Leland Larrison is shown standing in front of pictures of 16 former Mayors of Terre Haute. The pictures were found by Mayor Larrison in a closet at City Hall, refurbished and are now hanging on the south and west walls of the mayor's office. The pictures include top row from left, James B. Edmunds, Henry Fairbanks, Joseph M. Wildy, Benjamin F. Havens, James B. Lyne, William H. Armstrong, Jacob C. Kolsem and Frank C. Danaldson. Bottom row from left, Alexander Thomas, Grafton F. Cookerly, Albert Long, William H. Stewart, Chambers Y. Patterson, James Hook, William K. Edwards and Elijah Tillotson. should be Lange Martin Photo.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Mayors (TH)
Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Brittain M. Harrison was elected mayor on June 4, 1839, and served as the town's chief executive until the office of mayor was abolished on Feb. 9, 1843.

The office of mayor was abolished in 1843 by an act of the Indiana General Assembly. Enforcement of ordinances were left to magistrates while other duties were transferred to the president of the common council.

This system of government for Terre Haute continued for the next 10 years.

In April of 1853, Terre Haute became incorporated as a city. The first city election was held and William K. Edwards was elected mayor of the City of Terre Haute on May 30.

Edwards was a legal advisor to Chauncey Rose, local philanthropist. A total of 752 votes were cast in the city election and Edwards polled 573 of the votes. He defeated B. M. Harrison who received 179 votes. Edwards served as mayor until May 7, 1855.

Mayor James Hook

James Hook was elected mayor in 1855 and served until 1856. The old Hook school on North Fourth torn down several years ago, was named for him.

In 1856 Chambers Y. Patterson was elected mayor and held the post until 1860 when he resigned to become circuit court judge.

A special election was held on Nov. 19, 1860, and William H. Stewart was elected mayor to serve the unexpired term of Patterson.

Albert Lange, a member of the Republican Union Party, was elected mayor on May 9, 1863. Lange School, 1400 Lafayette Ave., was named for the late Mayor Lange.

Elected mayor in 1867, was Grafton F. Cookerly, a Democrat.

He was succeeded by Alenander Thomas, a Republican, in 1871. Thomas was re-elected in 1873 and served in the post of mayor until 1875.

James B. Edmunds, a Democrat, was elected in 1875, but died in office after serving two months of his second term. Six former Terre Haute mayors served as pallbearers at Edmunds funeral.

Elected to fill the vacancy created by the death of Edmunds in 1877 was Henry Fairbanks, a Republican. Fairbanks died after serving only nine months in office.

Joseph M. Wildy, a Nationalist, served as mayor from 1878 to 1879.

Then elected was Benjamin Havens who served from 1879 to 1881.

The next two years saw James B. Lyne, a Republican, serve in the office as mayor.

From 1883 to 1885 William H. Armstrong, a Republican, was mayor.

Jacob C. Kolsem, a Democrat, was mayor from 1885 to 1889.

In 1889 Henry M. Griswald was elected mayor but died the first year in office.

James M. Allen was elected to fill the unexpired term but resigned after serving only two months as mayor.

Frank C. Danaldson, a Republican, was then elected mayor and served in the office until 1892.

Another Republican, Fred A. Ross, was elected in 1892 and served as mayor for the next six years.

Henry C. Steeg, a Democrat for which a city park located at 14th St., and Wabash Ave., was named served as mayor until 1904. Steeg Park was recently re-named Gilbert Park. Many local residents still refer to the park as "Hobo Park."

Bidaman Impeached

The following mayor, Edwin J. Bidaman, a Republican, was elected in 1904, but was impeached shortly after taking office.

Frank M. Buckingham, a Republican, and former city clerk, who was city controller at the time of Bidaman's impeachment was named to the mayor's post.

In 1908 James Lyons, a Democrat, was elected mayor. He served until 1910.

Louis A. Gerhardt, another Democrat, served from 1910 to 1914.

Donn M. Roberts, a Democrat, was elected mayor in 1914 and served in that office until Feb. 22, 1915, when he was convicted on a federal vote fraud charge and sentenced to three and one-half years at the U. S. Federal Penitentiary, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He was released from prison in 1919 and returned to Terre Haute. He died Aug. 3, 1936.

James Gossom, a Democrat, who served as city controller under Roberts was named mayor to fill the unexpired term.

In 1918 Charles R. Hunter, a Republican, was elected mayor and served to 1922.

Ora Davis, a Republican, was elected in 1922 and was reelected in 1926.

Wood Posey, a Democrat, was elected mayor in 1930, and during his term of office the Indiana General Assembly enacted a law which said that mayors would be elected on odd number years. Thus, Posey served an extra year as mayor of Terre Haute.

Samuel E. Beecher Sr., a Republican, who is still living, was elected mayor and served one term.

He was succeeded by Joseph D. Duffy, a Democrat, from 1940 to 1944.

Vernon R. McMillan, a Republican and well known Terre Haute businessman served as mayor from 1944 to 1948.

Then came Ralph Tucker, a Democrat, who is the only other surviving mayor besides Beecher. He served as mayor from 1948 to 1968, the only five-term mayor in the history of Terre Haute.

Following Tucker's 20-year term the city reverted to a Republican administration and elected A. Leland Larrison as the mayor of Terre Haute.

Mayors (TH)

Community Affairs File

HOW CITY HAS GROWN.

The following are the figures showing the growth of Terre Haute since 1850. In 1850 Terre Haute had a total population of 4,051, of which 227 were colored. This was just before it became a city. Ten years later the town had more than doubled in size with a total of 8,594. In this year, 1860, the reports issued by the census department show the population of Vigo county to have been 22,517. The colored population had receded to 215 in Terre Haute, twelve less than ten years before.

In 1870 an increase very near as large as in the previous decade is shown, the total enumeration reaching in that year 16,103. In 1880 it was 26,042. During the next ten years, however, the growth was not so rapid, less than 4,200 being added, bringing the count for the year 1890 up to 30,217. Ten years ago, in 1900, the last government census before this one, the official enumeration gave Terre Haute a count of 36,673, and Vigo county 62,035.

During these fifty years the city increased 32,622 and Vigo county gained approximately 40,000. Early records of the county place the population of Vigo in 1820 at 3,390.

TERRE HAUTE'S MAYORS.

The name "Terre Haute" was given the city because of the physical nature of the ground upon which it is built. It is a French word, or rather two French words meaning "high earth."

The first mayor of the town of Terre Haute was Elijah Tillotson, who took his office in 1838. The first mayor of the city of Terre Haute was William K. Edwards, who served from 1853 to 1855. The other mayors of the city since Edwards have been as follows: James Hook, '55 to '56; Chambers Y. Patterson, '56 to '61; William H. Stewart, '61 to '63; Albert Lang, '63 to '67; Grafton T. Cookerly, '67 to '71; Alexander Thomas, '71 to '75; James B. Edmunds, '75 to '77; Henry Fairbanks, '77 to '78; Joseph Wildy, '78 to '79; Benjamin F. Havens, '79 to '81; James B. Lyne, '81 to '83; William H. Armstrong, '83 to '85; Jacob C. Kolsem, '85 to '89; Frank C. Danaldson, '89 to '91; Henry M. Griswold, '91; James M. Allen, '91 to '92; Fred A. Ross, '92 to '98; Henry C. Steeg, '98 to 1904; Edwin H. Bidaman, '04 to '06; Frank M. Buckingham, '06; James Lyons, '06 to '10, and Louis Gerhardt, the present mayor.

Mayors (TH)

TERRE HAUTE - MAYORS

Elijah Tillotson 1838
William K. Edwards, 1853-55
James Hook 1855-1856
Chambers Y. Patterson, 1856-61
Albert Lang, 1863-1867
Graften F. Cookerly, 1867-71
Alexander Thomas, 1871-75
James B. Edmunds 1875-77
Henry Fairbanks 1877-78
Benjamin F. Haven, 1879-1881
James P. Lynde, 1879
James H. Allen 1891-92
Henry Griswold, 1892

Joseph P. Wildy, 1883
William H. Armstrong, 1883-1885
Jacob Kolsem, 1885-89
Frank C. Dalaldson, 1889-91 (Rep)
Frederick A. Ross, 1892-1898
Republican

Wm H. Stewart elected Nov 19, 1860 to fill unexpired term of Patterson 1860-63

TERRE HAUTE - MAYORS (continued)

Henry C. Steig 1898 to 1904
Edwin H. Bidaman (R) 1904 - 1906 1906
Frank M. Buckingham 1906 finished Bidaman's term, to
James Lyons 1906- to 1910 Democrat
Louis A. Gerhardt (Dem) 1910 to 1914 Democrat
Donn Marlbrough Roberts (Dem) 1914- to 2-23-1915
James Murrell Gossom (Dem) 2-23-15 to 1918 (Youngest)
Charles R. Hunter (Rep.) 1918 - to 1922
Ora D. Davis (Rep.) 1922-1930 Held office longest
Wood J. Posey (Dem) 1930 - 1935 5 yr. Gov. McNutt
Samuel Beecher (Rep.) 1935 - 1939
Joseph P. Duffy (Dem.) 1939 - 1943
Vernon Ream McMillan (Rep) 1943 - 1948 ext. to 5 year by State Legislature.
Ralph Tucker (Dem) 1948 --- Jan. 1, 1968

TERRE HAUTE MAYORS (continued)

Leland Larrison (Rep) 1968-- 1972
WILLIAM BRIGHTON (DEM) 1972 -

REFERENCE
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Community Affairs File

MAYORS - T.H.

(1)

For Whitney Mayoral Campaign Oct 1909

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

The war for Independence from the rule of England waged by the American colonies, beginning 1776, and the war for Independence in municipal government, from the rule of the local bi-partisan machine, waged by the Citizen's Independent League of Terre Haute, beginning 1909 are, in many ways, strikingly alike.

Each was preceded by long, long years of misrule, a misrule inherent in the false system. Colonial governors were not selected by King George III for fitness but for subserviency to his will. So also with the bi-partisan machine. There was heavy taxation but no real representation. The king and his court ruled the colonies in England; just as the bi-partisan machine, that is to say the privilege and franchise grabbers largely non resident and the lawless element have ruled in Terre Haute. Finally, growing worse and worse the King & Court

Speech given by Mr. Will Ball during the Whitney for Mayor Campaign. Fall 1909

(Archives - CAZ)

machine ordered British troops to massacre the American patriots at Lexington. Then came open revolt in America.

~~At last~~ Similarly in Terre Haute the bi-partisan machine, growing worse and worse, ordered the political massacre of the tax payers, law lovers and special privilege fighters of this city at the primaries. Then came open revolt in Terre Haute. Was it not due?.

The Independence movement of 1776 and the Independent League movement of 1909 commenced in revolt, but they soon became Revolution, but not without regret

The patriots of '76 liked to be "regular"; they were loath to break with the Mother Country.

The patriots of 1909 also liked to be "regular"; they were loath to break with their political parties. But in the minds of both Right was more important than "Regularity".

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence of '76 and pledged to it their "lives,

their fortunes and their sacred ~~fortunes~~ honor", entered upon a difficult , and dangerous war with a strong,unscrupulous and relentless enemy. They were at the time of signing without a standard bearer;practically without an organization.

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence of I909 and pledged themselves to fight for it also entered upon a difficult and dangerous war with a strong ,unscrupulous and relentless enemy.They ,too,were at the time without a standard bearer;practically without an organization.

As in '76 so in '09 the men who signed said to each other :" We must hang together or we will hang separately".But they were brave men and did not falter.

It was a long time after the colonial Declaration of Independence before the colonies formed a real central government and selected George

Washington as president. So also it was a long time after the Terre Haute Declaration of Independence before the Citizen's Independence League completed a real central organization and selected Lee R Whitney for Mayor.

And yet in the meantime thousands of men had solemnly pledged themselves to each cause and thousands more quietly joined without pledging

The men of '76 were of all religious faiths from the Catholic to the Unitarian, from stiffly orthodox George Washington to decidedly free thinking Thomas Paine. So also are the men of '09

The Declaration of '76 arraigns the King for " refusal to assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good ", The Declaration of '09 arraigns the bi-partisan machine for placing in office a justice of the peace who flagrantly sets aside an election law "wholesome and necessary to the public good"

The Declaration of '76 arraigns some of the King's

judges ;so also does the Declaration of '09. The Declaration of '76 assails the King for "taking away our charters" meaning colonial charters. The Declaration of '09 assails the bi partisan machine for taking away our municipal franchises without adequate compensation.

What is a bi-partisan machine?. It is a combination of political bosses and special interests members of both the Democratic and Republican parties having a secret understanding or working agreement to divide certain spoils of office and protect certain special interests no matter whether Democrats or Republicans win. These special interests usually concern municipal franchises or profits made by non-enforcement of the law. Bi-partisan machines flourish in many cities. One of the worst in history was that headed by Croker and Platt.

Is there not also a parallel between the way Washington was chosen president and the way

Whitney was chosen candidate for Mayor?. Neither sought the office. Each had to be urged to accep its responsibilities and each yielded to impor tunity solely in order to serve the public to the best of his ability.

It is not my purpose to say unkind things of either Mr. Gerhardt or Mr. ~~Whitney~~ Horsely. I am on friendly personal terms with both of them. But you republicans, who have revolted in such large numbers say Mr. Horsely got rich as sheriff, and not satisfied with that has become so fond of public office he is spending large sums in a frantic effort to become Mayor. You seem to think this undignified for an aspirant for the highest office in the gift of the people of this city. You have an idea that a Mayor such as our great and growing city des serves to have and must have if it realizes its great possibilities, ~~must have~~ should be a man of exceptional executive abilities. You say Mr Horsely

has no special qualifications for this high office except his extreme desire to occupy it and that some of his associates and boon companions are not such as to commend him for an office of this unusual character.

And we Democrats say ~~that~~ that Mr. Gerhardt Horsely also has no special qualifications for this office.

And all men know, whether they have the candor to say it or not, that the bi-partisan machine went too far when it nominated for Mayor of this city a man who has spent the greater part of his business career as a saloon keeper and not a law-abiding one either.

And beside all this all are aware that no matter whether Mr. Horsely or Mr. Gherhardt is elected the bi-partisan machine wins and the people lose. They know further that these men will take office, if elected, as practically all under the bi-partisan system must take office

burdened with obligations.They will be plastered with political mortgages,liens,judgments receiverships and writs of capias.Even with the best of intentions they would not be able to give what Terre Haute needs.

On the other hand Mr Whitney is free.He is weighted with no obligations.He will impartially consistently and persistently enforce the law,something that will prove of inestimable value to the city. He will treat the public service corporations fairly but will compel them ,as far as lies in his power to deal fairly with the public .He will protect the taxpayer by getting in business way a dollar's worth of service or value for every dollar expended. He will give to the city his exceptional executive ability ,his untiring energy and his successful business experience.

Y

(typed from handwritten transcript, Feb. 20, 1984)

Mayors (T. H.)

Community Affairs File

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MAYORS

Gazette, Aug. 3, 1897

Ex-Mayor Alexander Thomas d. this week /

17 diff men have filled the office of mayor from time was incor as a city in 1853, up to time Mayor Ross was elected; 7 are living at the pres. time:

1. Henry M. Griswold, elected by countil to succes Mayor Allen when ~~ohwn~~ latter died.
2. Frank C. Danoldson who served from 1889 to 1891. (Danoldson)
3. J. C. Kolsem, from 1885 to 1889
4. Wm. H. Armstrong, 1883 to 1885
5. James B. Lyne, 1881 to 1883
6. B. F. Havens, 1879 to 1881
7. J. M. Wildy, who was elcted to a spec. election to fill out unexpired term of Henry Fairbanks who died while in office, April, 1878.

Armstrong, now res of Indpls. engaged in surgical instrument business. Also memb. of bd. of trustees ISU schl.
Lyne, with sons, engaged in stove bus. Dubois Co.

deceased:
Wm. K. Edwards, 1st mayor, elected 1853
James Hook
Chambers Y. Patterson
Wm. H. Stewart
Albert Lange
Grafton F. Cookerly
Alexander Thomas
James B. Edmunds
Henry Fairbanks
J. M. Allen

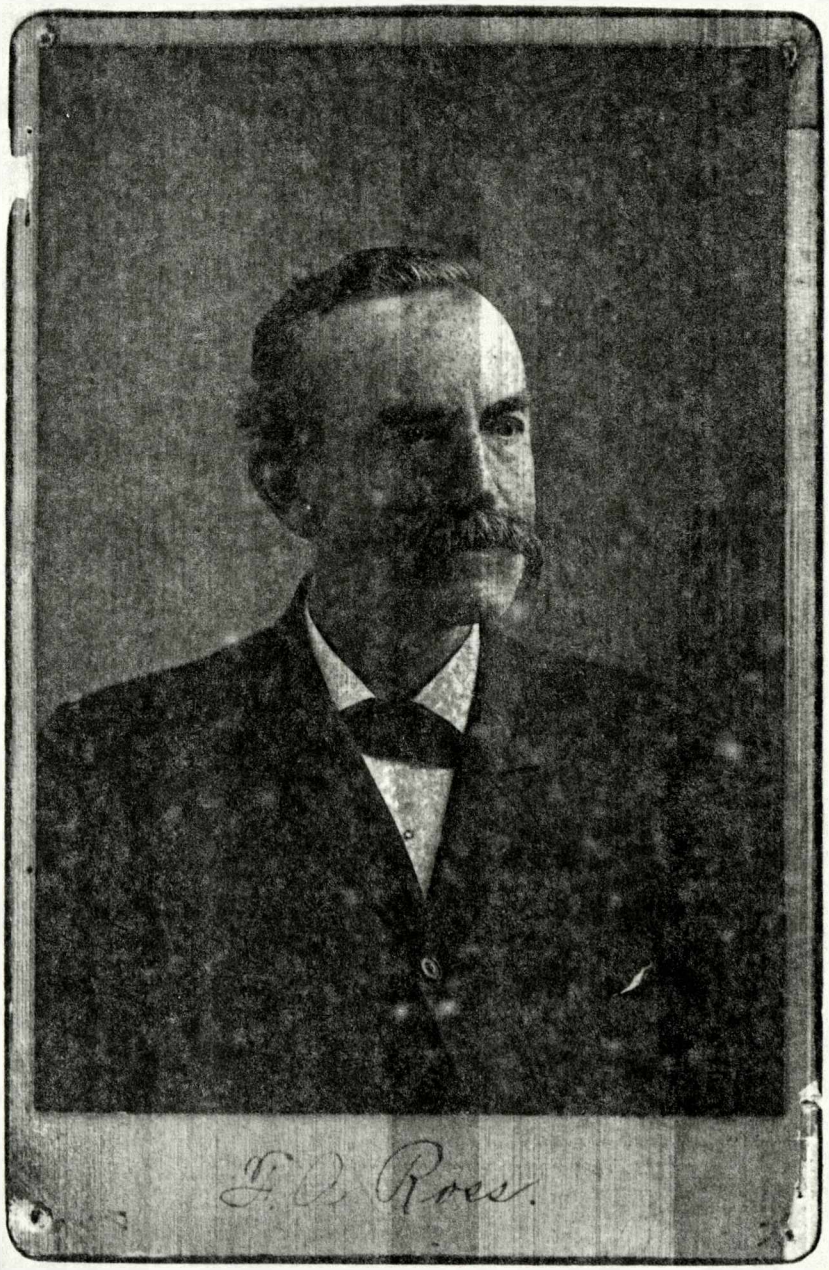
Treasurers-- 4 living 1897:
John Paddock, 1871-77, now res Denver
Hugo Duenweg, 1877-83
James Fitzpatrick 1885-89
Wm. H. Hauck, 1889-94
Others were:
Thos Houghton
A. E. Taylor
James B. Edmunds (who in course of few yrs. filled each of offices of Mayor, tres & clk)
J. M. Random
J. C. Kester
E. D. Carter
C. A. Goodwin
Marcus Schoemehl
Chas. A. Robinson

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Clerks (13 since 1853) 6 living 1897:

Capt. E. B. Allen (Daily Express0
John F. Gulick (recently retired and in Calif.)
Frederick Schwingrouber (retired Hoboken, J.J.)
Eugene V. Debs, lbr. Social Democracy
Geo. W. Davis, inmate Marin Ind. Soldiers' Home.
A. C. Duddleston of T.H.
Others were:
James B. Edmunds
Isaac N. Coltrin
Joseph H. Blake
Thos. P. Gordon
Warren Harper
Dan. L. Vickery
John B. Tolbert

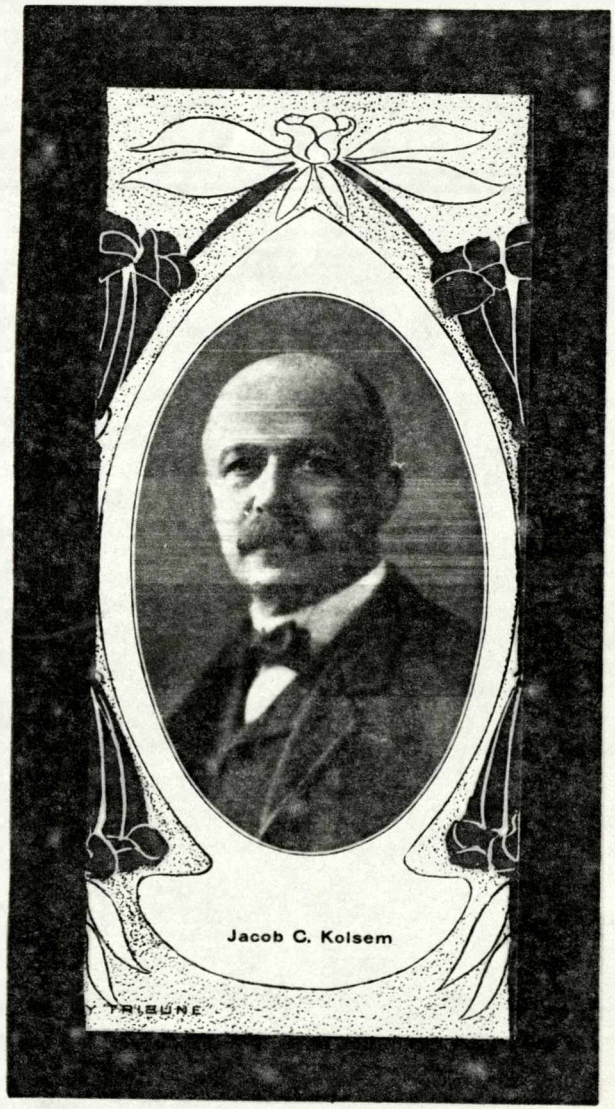
MAYORS - T.H.



F. A. ROSS

(ARCHIVES CAF)

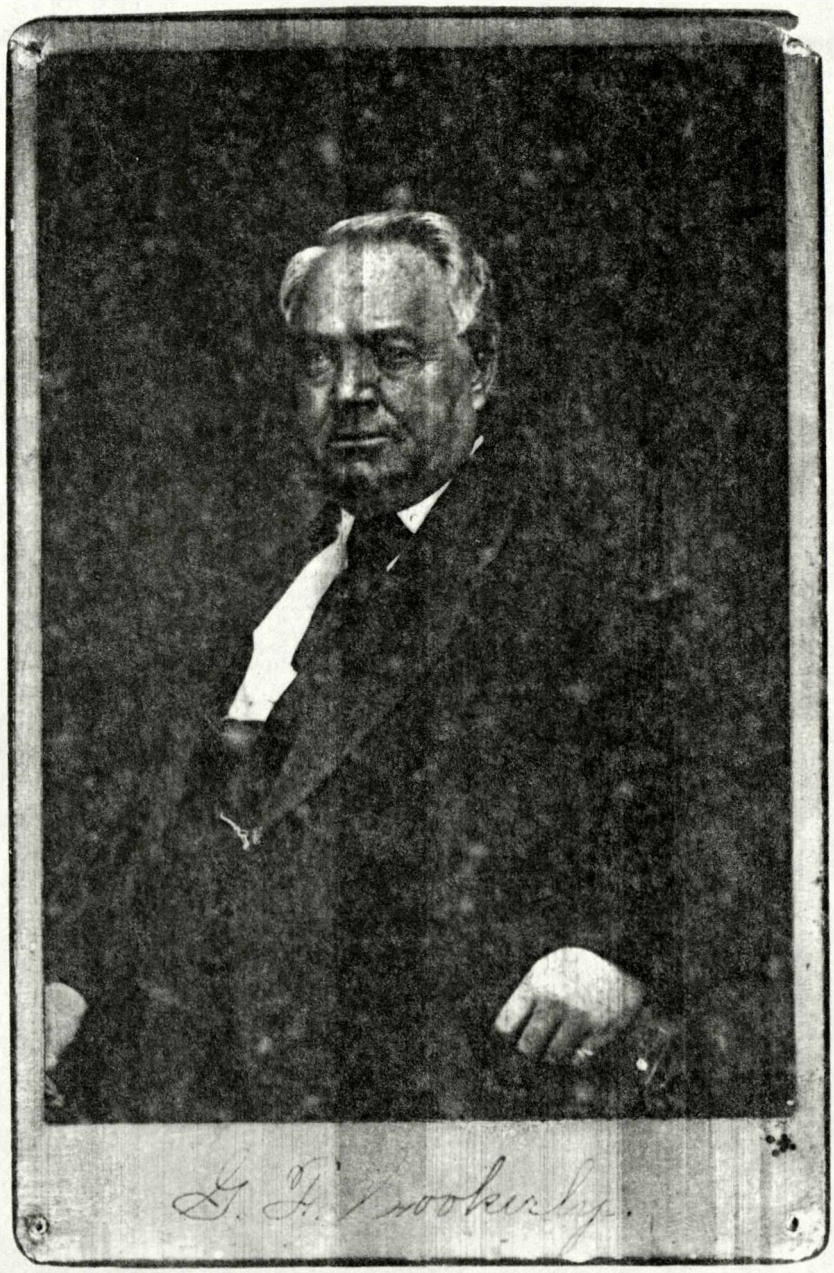
MAYORS - T.H. 1838-1892



KOLSEM, JACOB
BORN PRUSSIA, JULY 24, 1849. CAME TO U.S. 1853, TO T.H. 1868
M. MARY STAKEMAN 1874. FOUR CHILDREN.
(COAKEY, P. 571)

(ARCHIVES - CAF)

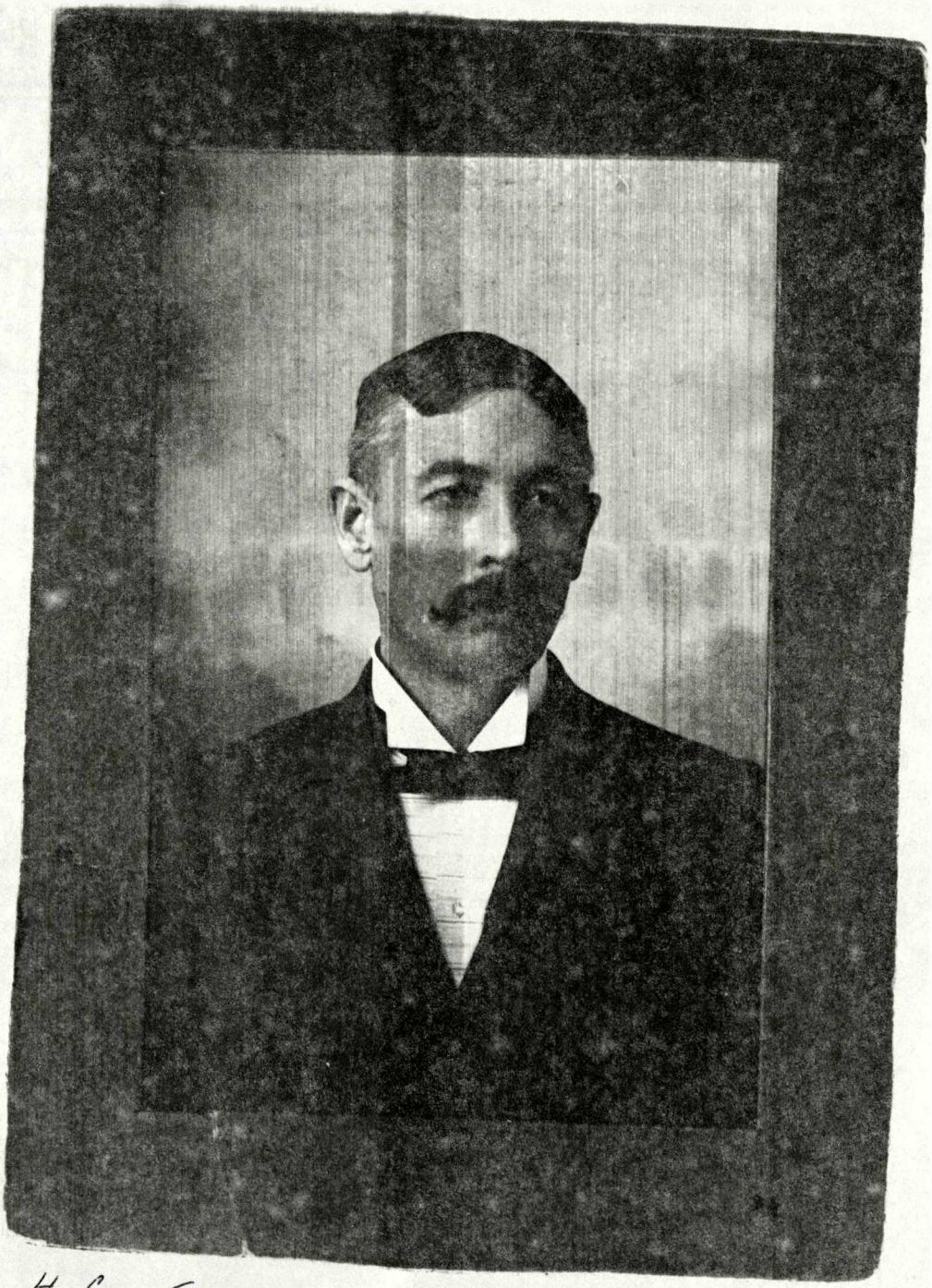
MAYORS - T.H.



COL. G. F. COOKERLY
MAYOR 1867
D. 1885

(ARCHIVES - CAF)

MAYORS - T.H.



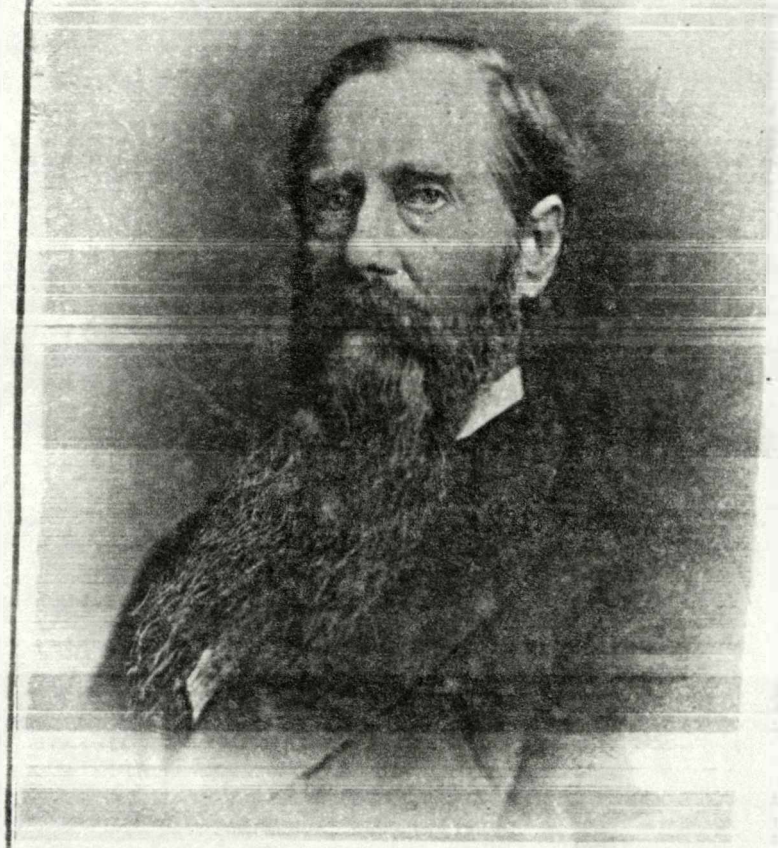
H.C. STEEG FEB. 21, 1899

OBIT. T.H. TRIB. NOV. 29, 1911 P. 2 COL. 2

(ARCHIVES - CAF)

MAYORS - T.H. 1838 - 1892

EDWARDS, WM. K. BORN NEAR LOUISVILLE, KY. ABOUT 1820. DIED SEPT. 25, 1878. MAYOR OF T.H. AT ONE TIME. SERVED A TERM IN LEGISLATURE.

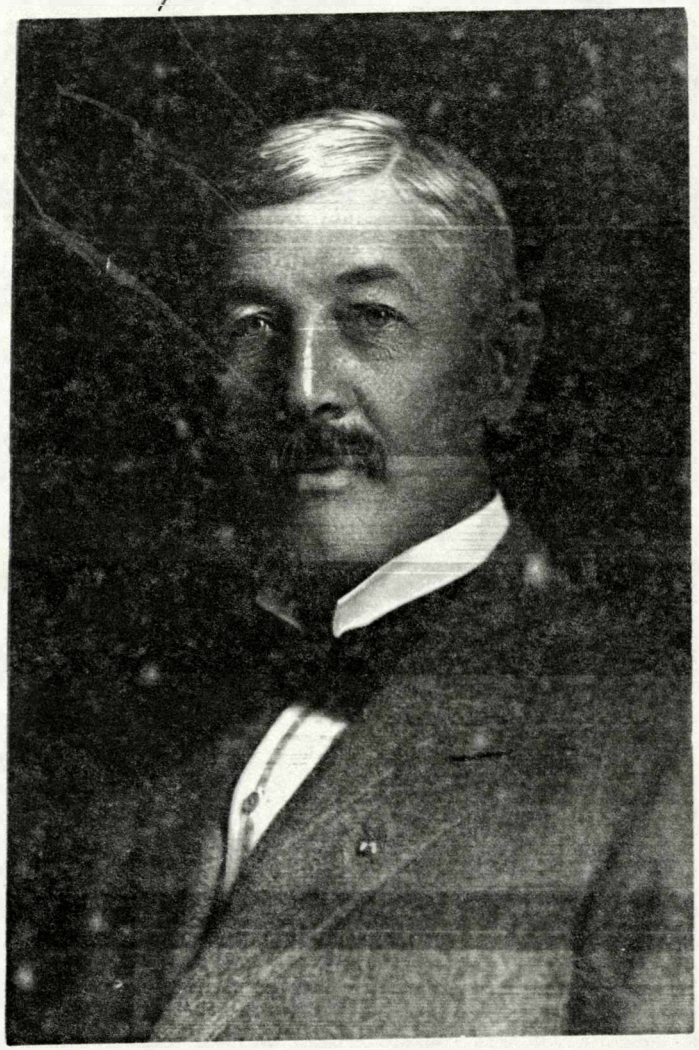


ROSS, F.A. BORN IN MAINE. CAME TO T.H. IN 1848. MERCANTILE BUSINESS UNTIL 1872. LATER OPENED REAL ESTATE BUSINESS. (HIST. OF PARKE & VIGO CO. P. 220)

(ARCHIVES - CAF)

MAYORS - T.H. 1838-1892

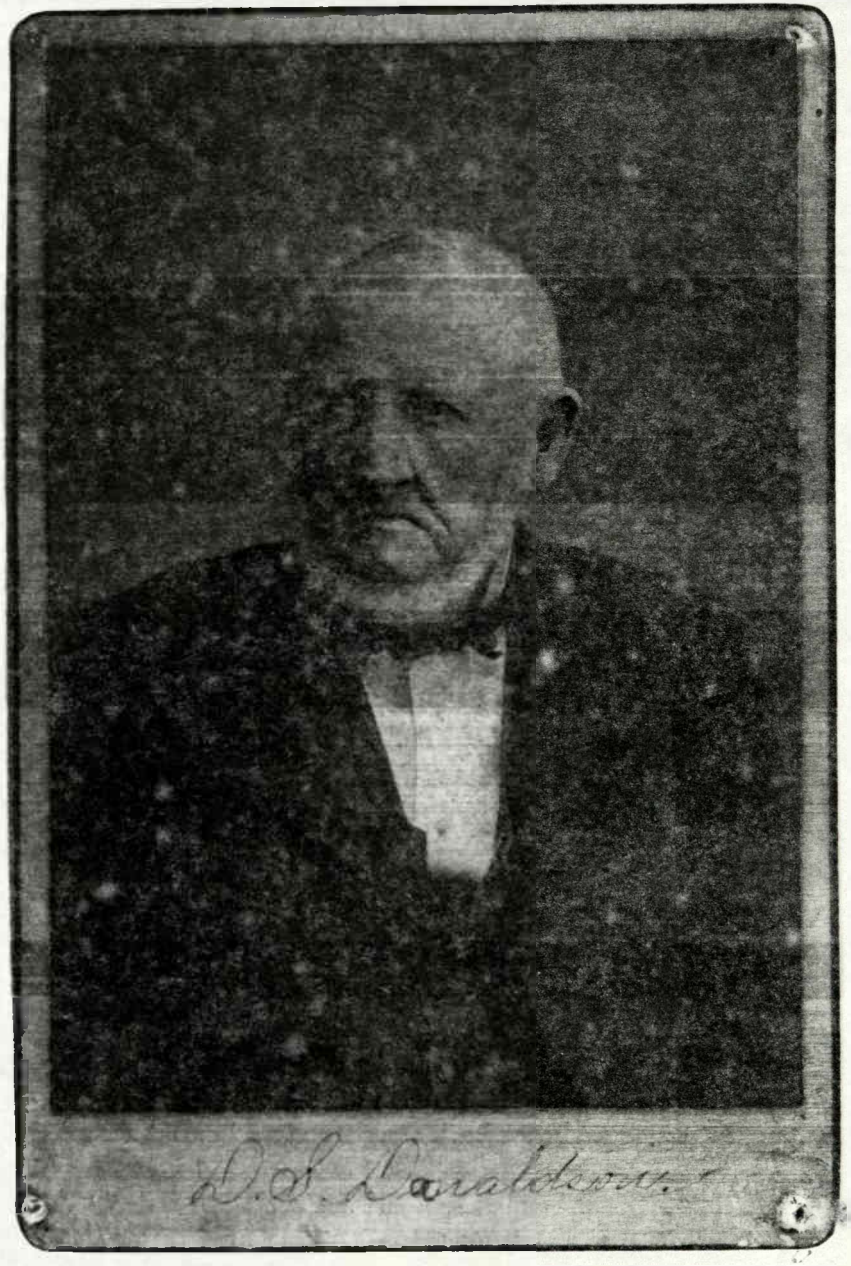
HENRY STEEG



G. F. COOKERLY

(ARCHIVES - CAF)

MAYORS - T.H. 1838-1892



(ARCHIVES - CAF)

MAYORS - T.H.

DAVID DONALDSON b. 1809

D. 1894

(ARCHIVES CAF)

Community Affairs File

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T. H. 126-Year History Of Mayors Outlined

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Terre Haute was incorporated as a town by virtue of an act of the General Assembly approved January, 1832, under the name and style of the "President and Srustees of the town of Terre Haute."

The town was divided into five wards and one trustee was elected for each. for each.

These trustees elected the first municipal officers of the town who were president, James B. McCall; clerk, James T. Moffat; assessor, Charles G. Taylor; treasurer, Samuel Crawford; constable and collector, William Mars.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

This system of government continued until 1838 when, by act of the Legislature, a new charter was granted which provided for the election of a mayor and ten councilmen. This charter was accepted by a vote of the citizens in March, 1838.

In the following May, 1839, an election was held for mayor and councilmen. Elijah Tillotson was elected the first mayor of the town of Terre Haute.

In 1843, the office of mayor was abolished by a special act of the legislature, the enforcement of the ordinances was left to the magistrates and the other duties of the mayor were transferred to the president of the common council.

So many readers call me for information about who was mayor in what year that I decided to research the matter and keep a special file on the subject.

Elected in May, 1838, Elijah Tillotson was mayor until he resigned Aug. 10, 1838. In Sept. 9, Dr. Marcus Hitchcock was elected only to resign in June, 1839. On June 4, 1839, Brittain M. Harrison was elected and served until the office of mayor was abolished on Feb. 9. 1843.

Under the new Constitution of the state of Indiana, a general law was enacted in 1852 which provided for the incorporation of cities, authorizing towns having a population of three thousand inhabitants and upward to become incorporated.

City Incorporated

In April, 1853, Terre Haute became incorporated as a city under this act and the first city election was held May 30, 1853. William K. Edwards, legal adviser to Chauncey Rose and other prominent citizens, was chosen the first mayor of the city of Terre Haute. Of the 752 total votes cast, Edwards received 573, while B. M. Harrison received only 179.

Mayor Edwards served until May 7, 1855, when James Hook was elected. He was followed in 1856 by Chambers Y. Patterson who served until 1860 when he resigned to become Circuit Court judge.

A special election was held Nov. 19, 1860, and William H. Stewart was elected to fill the unexpired term. Mayor Stewart held the office until May 9, 1863, when Albert Lange (for whom Lange School is named) was elected.

Mayor Lange was followed in 1867 by Grafton F. Cookerly whose term ended May, 1872.

A city directory of that period stated that the aforementioned six men "having successively served as mayor, conducted the affairs of the municipality with credit to themselves and to the satisfaction of the people."

Alexander Thomas (R) was elected in 1871 and re-elected in 1873. James B. Edmunds (D) became mayor in 1875 but died after serving two months of his second term. Six ex-mayors acted as pall-bearers at his funeral.

Henry Fairbanks was elected to fill the vacancy in 1877 but he also died in office after serving only nine months. One source lists Joseph M. Wildy (National Party) as mayor 1878-1879 while another historian states that on May 7, 1878, William K. Edwards was elected to fill the vacancy.

Mayor Benjamin F. Havens (D) served from 1879 to 1881 when James B. Lyne (R) was elected. William H. Armstrong (R) was mayor in 1883-85. Jacob C. Kolsem (D) served from 1885 to 1889 when the office of mayor went to Frank C. Danaldson who served until 1892. In that year, Fred A. Ross was elected and served for six years. Henry C. Steeg was elected in 1898 and his administration carried the city through the turn of the century.

In 1904, Edwin J. Bidaman was elected. Next came James Lyons in 1908 to be replaced by Louis A. Gerhardt in 1910. World War I was beginning in Europe when Donn M. Roberts was elected in 1913. On Feb. 22, 1915, James M. Gossom, city controller, assumed the office of mayor.

The United States was in that "war to end all wars" when Charles R. Hunter became mayor in 1918. Four years later, Ora D. Davis was elected (1922) and was re-elected in 1926. In 1930, Wood Posey was elected and served five years. It was at this time the State Legislature enacted the law to elect mayors only on the odd number years, not at the same time the Governor was to be elected.

Samuel Beecher Sr. served as mayor from 1936 to 1940. Joseph P. Duffy served from 1940 to 1944 with this country engaged in World War II. Vernon R. McMillan took office in 1944, serving until 1948 when Mayor Ralph Tucker was elected and in 1965 is serving his fifth term in that office, the longest term of any mayor in Terre Haute's history.

Prior to 1840, it is very difficult to arrive at any definite idea of the political pary divisions in this area. Early citizens were Whigs, pro-slavery Democrats and Free-Soilers. Down into 1865, the division of parties here was between the Whigs and Democrats, then the American party and Democrats, and the Republicans and Democrats came really to be the two parties only in 1860, when voters well knew they were voting on the question of civil war.

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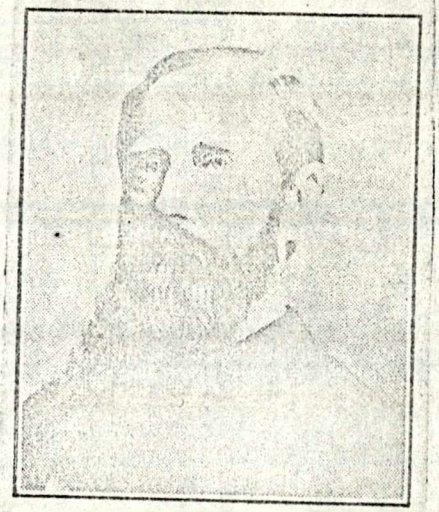
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

ELIJAH TILLOTSON, 1838,
First mayor of the town of Terre Haute.



WILLIAM K. EDWARDS, 1853-55.
First mayor of the city of Terre Haute.

James Hook, 1855-56.

Chambers Y. Patterson, 1856-61.

Albert Lang, 1863-67.

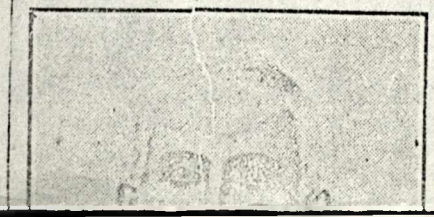
Grafton F. Cookerly, 1867-71.

Alexander Thomas, 1871-75.

James B. Edmunds, 1875-77.

Henry Fairbanks, 1877-78.

were: Mesdames Chas. Smith, Louis Gerharat, Chas Barwitsky, Leonard Welte, Chas. Zimmerman, Dorothy Numan, Robert Nitche, Gustave Reichart, Geo. Ehrnhart, Wm. Retz, Oscar Kantman, Chas. Graf.



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T. H. Trib.-Star 11/28/65

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